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ON

Crown and Glory of Christianity

TO THE

Saints *Everlasting Rest*;

OR, THE

YOUNG MAN'S GUIDE

Through the Wilderness of this World, With a
Drop of Honey from the Rock of Christ; every
Virtue is a Step to Eternity.

By R. ROSS, and set forth for the Benefit of the
POOR.

MATTHEW xi, 28, 29, 30. *Come unto me all that labor
and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest; take my yoke
upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart,
and you shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy
and my burden is light.*

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The Crown and Glory of Christianity.

CHRISTIANITY seek good and not evil, that you may live, and the Lord will be with you; God will mainrain you all your days in his service, he will be your guide even unto death. Whilst you have a day to live God will stand by you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your lives; and the Lord will never turn away from you to do you good; I will be an husband to you, and betroth you unto me for ever. You shall not need to fear; I will give you my choice, love, I will give you my heart; I will be a father to you; and you shall be my sons and daughters: therefore come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. I will be

a shepherd to you, for no evil shall come near you, for I am with you; you shall not want, I will feed you: you shall not wander nor be lost, for I will restore you; I will cause you to lie down in green pastures; and lead you beside the still waters. I will be a physician to you; I will heal your back-sliding, and cure all your diseases; therefore, fear not, Never did soul miscarry that left itself in God's hands; I will be a God unto your children: Consider how happy your condition will be, if in time you repent and forsake your sins. Then God will be your father, Christ will be your brother, and the spirit will be your comforter. You shall be filled with the joy of the Holy Ghost, you shall have the free pardon of all your sins, so that they shall be remembered no more.

O my soul! dost thou not see the charriots of fire, and the horses of fire, come to take thee up? Be thou as poor as Lazarus, yet God will not disdain to send a party of angels to conduct thee home; fear not, my soul, as if thou were going to a strange place; why Heaven is thy country from above, and there is thy father's house, and therefore thou shalt surely be admitted and shalt see the glorious preparation of eternal love. Methinks I hear already how the morning stars sing together, and all the sons of God shout for joy, the Lord hath spoken it; you shall see his fame, and his name shall be written in your forehead, and you shall no more need the sun and

moon, for the Lord God shall give you light and shall reign with God for ever and ever; therefore hold out and be saved evermore and reign; be faithful unto death, and he will give thee a crown of life. This is the plain case, I obey and live, or die for ever; and therefore what can I say less or more, I will be his servant, let others chuse whom they will as for me, O! my soul serve the lord.

This resolution thus founded is like to stand: Why should I wrong my God? Hath he ever done me any wrong? Hath he not ever been good to me? King, pitiful, patient, bountiful, who hath fed me, clothed me, kept me, comforted me? What friend have I in the world? what father? what mother? what friend? what portion? what hope? but in the Lord? what were I? what had I but woe and misery, had I not a God? therefore I love God above all with all my soul; and he is always my hope, and all my desire. What a miserable creature were I, if it were not for my hope in God, what would all the world be to me if I should lose my soul.

But, dost thou speak as in earnest? dost thou think what thou speakest? yea, said the sinner, gladly I commit myself to thee, and I trust myself with thee, I set my hopes in thee, I take up my feet with thee. Lord; Let me hear thee say
am thy God and thy salvation, and I have

enough. Come unto me all ye ends of the earth and ye shall be saved, for I am God, and there is none else but me. Now put on thy wedding garment and go and marry thyself to Jesus Christ, and say, I am thine and all that I have, my body, my body, my soul, my estate. I give my heart to thee. I will be thine everlastingly.

If it be so, then the Lord will give thee the desire of thy heart, thou shalt have whatsoever thou desirest, keep the pipes open, and play the mean which I have prescribed, and ye shall flourish in the courts of your God; God will be as the dew upon you, and ye shall grow as the lily, and shoot forth your roots as Libanon, and your beauty shall be as the olive tree. You shall still bring forth fruit in old age, you shall be fat and flourishing, I will be the staff of bread to you life and the strength of your days, and I will be the house and home to you, and you shall dwell in me, and I am your God, I will repair your losses and relieve your needs. Are you in wants? You know where to come, I am ever at home, you shall not go away empty from my door, I will serve you when friends fail you, and your heart it rines crack, when your acquaintance leave you my bosom shall be open to you, I will lock up your dust, I will receive your souls, I am the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob; and whatever I have been to them I will be to thee,

Here is mercy for the worst of sinners; behold I have spread the table of my gospel for you, with privileges and comforts that no man taketh from; I have set before thee bread and water of life; eat friend, and drink abundantly, satisfied with the fatness of the house, and heaven shall reward you all, and so may you for ever be with the Lord.

Now blessed is he that believed, for there will be a performance of the things that have been told him, for no sooner should your doom be past, but the bench will rise, and the judge will return with all the glorious train, with sound of trumpet, and with shouts incredible will he ascend and lead you to his father's house; then will the angels lift up their hands, and the everlasting gates stand open, and the Heavens will receive you all; in short, he will make you equal to the angels of God, and you will be the everlasting trumpets of his praise. And besides all this: whensoever death comes, whether sooner or later, you shall be sure of Heaven, and as for your bodies, they will be laid in the grave as in the bed of Christ, there to rest until the glorious morning of the resurrection; then you will be received into Heaven, the place of rest, joy, and bliss; then you will be stripped of all your robes of mortality, and be clothed with immortality; then you shall meet with your dear friends and relations, that de-

passed in the fear of God, and no tongue can express the joy you will have one with another to all eternity; then you may be able to say all the day, Yonder sits the Son of God, whose blood was shed for my salvation. Which the Lord of his mercy grant. *Amen.*

A short Prayer.

O GOD Heavenly Father, who by thy son Jesus Christ, hast promised to all them that seek thy kingdom, in the righteousness hereof all mankind, vouchsafe to hear the petitions of thy humble servants, which we now, in all meekness and humility, lay before thee.

Strengthen us in the light of thy holy gospel, and let our prayers and supplications unto thee not be offered in vain, but vouchsafe mercifully to hear us when we call upon thee, and confess our weakness and unworthiness in thy sight.

O Lord, we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sins cannot be hid from thee.

But thou, O Lord, art a God of mercy, and hast promised to receive the repenting sinner.

Hear us then, O Lord, in the hour of our trouble, and deliver us in the agony of death, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. *Amen.*

FINIS.

